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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8804
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 0320
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE 0026
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 1851
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI IMMEDIATE 3757
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE 1934
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 3377
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 9045
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 002899

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/PSC TANAZ KHAMBATTA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/25/2018

TAGS: CH ER ET KPKO PBTS PREL UNSC

SUBJECT: CHINA AGREES ON NEED TO TERMINATE UNMEE; WANTS
CONTINUED UN ENGAGEMENT

REF: SECSTATE 79539

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Aubrey Carlson. Reasons 1.
4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) China agrees on the need to terminate the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in its current form, MFA International Organizations and Conferences Department UN Affairs Division Officer Cheng Lie told PolOff on July 25 in response to reftel points. However, Cheng said China hopes that the UN can still "play a role" in some other form "on the ground" in Ethiopia and Eritrea, though he did not specify what role the UN should play.

¶2. (C) Cheng acknowledged that, given the lack of cooperation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, it is impossible for UNMEE to fulfill its mandate. He expressed concern that a sudden termination of UNMEE could exacerbate tensions in the region and argued for a "soft landing" for UNMEE and a "smooth transition" to some other form of UN engagement with Ethiopia and Eritrea.

¶3. (U) Minimize considered.
RANDT